

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 03519

DEPT: PLEASE PASS EPA - HARRIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINR, MARR, GW, US, NATO
SUBJECT: PETER MENKE-GLUCKERT, NEW FRG DIRECTOR FOR
CIVIL PREPAREDNESS

REF: USNATO 715

1. THE EMBASSY HAS LITTLE FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ON
MENKE-GLUCKERT, BUT OUR RECORDS GENERALLY BACK UP THE
PORTRAIT IN REFTEL.

2. MENKE-GLUCKERT WAS BORN MARCH 27, 1929 IN KARLSRUHE.
HE SPENT 1951-1952 IN THE U.S. AND HE SERVED FOR SOME

TIME AFTER 1961 AS A CONSULTANT ON THE RECTOR'S STAFF
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEUBINGEN. MENKE-GLUCKERT STUDIED
SEVERAL YEARS IN THE GDR. WE HAVE HEARD A STORY
ABOUT HIS TIME THERE TO THE EFFECT THAT, ON BEING
QUERIED DURING AN EXAM AS TO WHETHER HIS VIEWS WERE
SUBVERSIVE, HE SLAPPED THE QUESTIONER ACROSS THE
FACE AND STORMED OUT OF THE ROOM. ON COMING OVER TO
THE FRG, MENKE-GLUCKERT HAD TO REPEAT CERTAIN ACADEMIC
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STEPS TO QUALIFY FOR HIS EXAMINATIONS.

3. FDP CHAIRMAN (AND NOW ALSO FOREIGN MINISTER)
GENSCHER REPORTEDLY WAS IMPRESSED BY MENKE-GLUCKERT'S
BACKGROUND. WHEN GENSCHER WAS INTERIOR MINISTER,
MENKE-GLUCKERT WAS DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
(MINISTERIALDIRIGENT) FOR THE MINISTRY'S ENVIRONMENTAL

PROGRAMS. IN THAT CAPACITY, MENKE-GLUCKERT HAD NOMINAL CHARGE OF FRG PREPARATIONS FOR THE UNEP CONFERENCES IN NAIROBI. IN THE SPRING OF 1975, MENKE-GLUCKERT WAS RECALLED TO ASSUME CHARGE OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY'S DIVISION FOR NEWS MEDIA AND SPORTS. IN THAT JOB HE REPORTEDLY MADE A FEW BLUNDERS IN THE MEDIA FIELD, AT LEAST FROM THE FDP POINT OF VIEW; THUS, HIS NEW POSITION IN CIVIL DEFENSE MAY, IN SUBSTANCE AT LEAST, REPRESENT A DEMOTION.

4. MENKE-GLUCKERT IS, BY ALL ACCOUNTS, FULL OF IDEAS, CREATIVE, ERRATIC, AND BUREAUCRATICALLY UNPREDICTABLE. HIS CRITICS CONCEDE THAT HE IS A NICE AND DECENT MAN, BUT ADD THAT HIS DISORGANIZED AND ECCENTRIC WORK HABITS MAKE HIM A DIFFICULT COLLEAGUE AND SUPERVISOR. E.G., DURING ONE UNEP MEETING, MEMBERS OF THE FRG DELEGATION FORCED MENKE-GLUCKERT TO APOLOGIZE PUBLICLY TO THE USG TEAM FOR A DISCOURTESY WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN UNINTENTIONAL. MENKE-GLUCKERT REPORTEDLY APOLOGIZED WITHOUT RESENTMENT AGAINST HIS COLLEAGUES.

5. MENKE-GLUCKERT RAN UNSUCCESSFULLY FOR A POSITION IN THE BONN FDP ABOUT A YEAR AGO. HE WAS ALSO AN UNSUCCESSFUL FDP BUNDESTAG CANDIDATE FROM THE HEIDELBERG DISTRICT IN THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS LAST OCTOBER.
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